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million dollars. Then we would avoid and talk about the cost of another special session, the inconvenience to the legislators. This money is placed out on interest and it brings in and had we sustained it at this figure we probably would not have had to replenish it nearly so heavy because we are talking of paying for this with a 2 1/2% sales tax. We are getting 8, 9, 10% return on the investment and I don't believe in this kind of operation we are talking about ongoing businesses but for something that is unforeseen and unexplainable when a disaster strikes a community, whether it is a flood on the Platte River or it is a blizzard in western Nebraska or whether it is northeast Nebraska or it is a tornado in Omaha, Magnet and other places, I think this is a very, very minimal request because of the very uncertainties of the weathers and this is what this fund is used for. We can determine by this body the cost of ongoing programs, whether it be the University or the Colleges or whatever it might be, but here is an unknown. So I would be hopeful we would adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I support Senator Mahoney, Senator Burbach, Senator Syas. I agree with those gentlemen that this matter should not be debated at great length. There isn't any reason to worry the money is going to be expended foolishly but the money should be there so that if the Governor needs to use it he has it at his discretion. He is not going to throw it away. As it has been pointed out by Senator Mahoney, it is costing in excess of \$30,000 a day up there and we do not know how long that will continue nor do we know when another disaster will strike. We should not handicap the Governor. We should not handicap the National Guard in the performance of their duties. We spend a lot of money. There is a lot of money invested in the National Guard. About the only real time we get benefit from them is in an example just like this, and at that time the Governor should be allowed to use his own discretion and not worry about whether the Legislature have appropriated 200,000 or 300,000. As Senator Burbach said, the fund should be a million, if necessary. It is not going to be lying there dormant. It is going to be drawing interest. It's going to be a minimal cost to the state and a very low insurance premium to be paying for the benefit that can be accrued by the citizens of this state when a disaster strikes and I would support the Mahoney amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Mahoney amendment and I am amazed that there would be those that would not, on the basis, first of all, it didn't come out of the Budget Committee which I think is kind of a mood argument and, secondly, let's evaluate when and how the funds can be spent. They can only be spent for an emergency. They can only be spent at that particular point in time, and rather than us limit the dollars in that fund, we should have substantial numbers built up so that we can operate effectively when we are out of session. The money is invested. It is out. It is not idle money that lies there. So what we are doing, we are really transferring some of our funds as a contingency fund saying, if something